



Lilium asiatica-Pixie Lily

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Petite Gardenscapes

Sensible designs for the weekend gardener

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Special Interest Articles:

- Viburnums
- Garden Thugs
- Gardening and Pets

Timely Tip:

Got pine sap on your hands? Remove it easily by rubbing in a little vegetable shortening.

Monthly features

- >Plant disorder of the month
- >Bulb of the month
- >Timely Tip

Questions or comment? Contact Pat at pbaganz@voyager.net or at 262-353-6555

A Viburnum in Every Plot

Viburnums- with between 150 to 250 species, this shrub group offers around 25 cultivars for Midwestern gardeners use. They tend to hybridize if they are near each other, which is why there are so many species which makes identification difficult. The good news is, there tends to be a variety for every kind of garden and gardener. In general, viburnums are pest free. If the plants need pruning, it is best done after the blooms are done, at least on the fragrant ones. You really don't want to miss this spicy fragrance once you've experienced it!

Fragrant viburnums

These are usually Asian varieties, and the blooms last about three weeks. (The x in the name means it's a hybrid- crossed with

another viburnum.)

Viburnum x

burkwoodii- Burkwood Viburnum 8-10' x 6-8'- one of the smaller fragrant viburnums; glossy dark green leaf; blooms in April-May, zone 5

Viburnum carlesii-

Koreanspice Viburnum 4-6' x 6-8' dull green leaf, April-May blooms, fantastic spicy fragrance, wine-red fall color, zone 4

Viburnum carlesii

'Compactum' -dwarf form of Koreanspice 3-4' x 3-4', more dense shape, wine-red fall color, zone 5

Viburnum x

carlcephalum 'Cayuga' 8 ½' x 11' (at maturity), dull matte leaf, more lance-like zone 5b

Viburnum x judii -Judd Viburnum ; 6-8' x 8' looks like V. carlesii w/ dull, fuzzy leaf, larger blooms, and denser shape, zone 4

Viburnum farreri-

Fragrant Viburnum, 7-8' early flower, in early April before leaves form zone 4

Non-fragrant

Viburnums- European varieties

Viburnum dentatum-

Arrowwood Viburnum 6-8', massive suckers of arrow-straight branches from which native Americans used to make arrows, blooms in May-June 'Autumn Jazz' has bright shiny good fall color

Viburnum lantana-

Wayfaringtree Viburnum- 10-15' x 15' thick, dull green leaf, white flat bunch of flowers, berries for birds in late summer

Viburnum carlesii



www.nycparks.com



Garden Thugs

We all know what a weed is: a plant that's growing in the wrong place. For some reason, weeds have the ability to grow much more aggressively than any plant we A) paid a lot for, or B) had a hard time finding. Go figure. However, there are perennial plants that some folks love that behave like thugs in the garden: growing like mad underground or throwing seeds with wild abandon so that you have hundreds where you once had a lovely specimen plant. **Here are some plants to be wary of that reproduce by stems:**

Aegopodium- Snow on the Mountain
Ajuga- Bugleweed
Artemesia -Silver Queen or Silver King
Convallaria- Lily of the Valley
Houttuynia- Chameleon plant (below)



www.ccwaterscapes.com

Matteuccia-Ostrich Fern

Oenothera tetragona-
Sundrops

Physalis- Chinese Lantern plant (below)



www.davesgarden.com

Physostegia virginiana- Obedient Plant
Ranunculus repens- Buttercup
Mentha- mint plants
Grasses: Ribbon Grass, Blue Lyme Grass, Japanese Blood Grass, Cord Grass

Thugs that reproduce by seeds (deadheading helps to control):
Aster novae angliae- New England Aster
Euphorbia polychrome- Cushion Spurge
Hesperis- Dame's Rocket has 4 petals; phlox (it's look-alike) has 5 petals.
Leucanthemum vulgare- Ditch or Oxeye Daisy
Lythrum salicaria- Purple Loosestrife
Phlox paniculata- Garden Phlox (seeds revert back to common plant)
Rudbeckia fulgida-

Black-eyed Susan
Violet sp- Violets
Herbs: Chives, Anise Hyssop, Lemon Balm, Catnip
Grasses: Northern Sea Oats, Switchgrass, Fountaingrass

Some alternatives are the following plants **not known to be THAT aggressive**:

Alchemilla- Lady's Mantle-well-behaved in part shade.
Aruncus- Goatsbeard (below)



www.hort.wisc.edu

Asclepias- Butterfly Weed
Dicentra- Bleeding Heart
Geranium sp- Rozanne can be quite aggressive
Hemerocallis- Daylily- easily divided
Hosta- ditto
Sedum-ditto
Calamagrostis- Feather Reed Grass
Platycodon- Balloon Flower



www.whiteflowerfarm.com

Lysimachia clethroides - Gooseneck Loosestrife- is a lovely sight in the garden, but needs to be contained. Try planting it in a 1# 13 oz. plastic coffee container. Its roots will be contained and you'll enjoy the snowy blossoms without worry. You will need to repot every 3-4 years.

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 Save money while gardening by digging that "\$50.00 hole for a \$5.00 plant". Your plants will thrive when given a hole twice as wide as the root ball, and deep enough that the plants crown doesn't stick up and dry out. You don't want it so deep it will rot, either.



Gardening and Pets

By Elizabeth O'Connell,

Pets and landscaping seldom live in harmony and, in truth, Siberian Huskies like ours are particularly hard on gardens. They love to hunt critters and dig like, well, Wisconsin badgers. Luckily, we've learned some tricks through the years so we're able to have flowers and our furry-friends share the same space.

The yard plan very sensibly started out to keep the house and the pets as clean as possible. A paver patio and brick paths connect the gates and back door so mud doesn't form in heavy traffic areas no matter how wet the weather.

The perimeter of the yard also has a nice wide, mulched border. Our two large dogs patrol the fence line each time they go out the door so there's no point in trying to grow grass there. A shrub border planted five feet inside the fence guaranteed there'd be room for the dogs to run behind the bushes even

after they had matured. The shrubs remain healthy and untrampled and we have easy access to weed and trim the back of the shrub line.

Of course not everything worked quite as envisioned the first time we tried it. Some of the shrubs weren't as sturdy as we'd hoped. Their branches were stiff and snapped if bumped. The Russian cypress was not only an attractive ground cover but a wonderful spot to for prowl for voles. The constant pouncing during hunts broke down the branches and created a mess.

We replaced the Russian cypress with perennials and planted Carolina sweetshrub (*Calycanthus floridus*), native dogwoods and oak-leaf hydrangeas. They all withstand battering without damage.

Of course none of this does anything to control digging. For that we installed a sand filled "dig box" in an out-of-the-way corner of the yard. By burying treats

in the sand we taught our pups that digging in this area was permitted. The sand ensures the "dig box" stays relatively dry and paws clean.

We've also set up several agility tools like nylon tunnels and a pylon course in the back of the yard. Just like children, pets get into trouble when they're full of energy and unsupervised so we run them through the pylon course and tunnels several times each week in addition to taking them for walks each day. It only takes a few minutes. We have fun teaching them the ropes and the exercise they get during practice burns off energy that could lead more destructive behavior in the garden. These activities also teach discipline so they "sit," "stay," and "come" immediately when called which is handy when our plants are in the path of flying feet.

The Humane Society of America (hsus.org) has an online list of plants poisonous

to your pets. We grow several plants on the list and haven't encountered problems but consult the list if you're getting a new dog or just starting a garden. It's always better to plant safely than to endanger a beloved pet.

Pets can live in harmony with plants but it takes some planning and energy. The result of the work will be a beautiful yard and happy, healthy four-legged friends.

Smells great, but is it deadly?
Cocoa bean hull mulch satisfies the chocolate lovers, but if you have a dog, find another type of mulch. Dogs can become ill by ingesting the caffeine and theobromine found in the mulch. Better to err on the side of caution.

Info from
www.snopes.com



Skills for Good Gardening

- Buy a good pruners-Cheap pruners can be had anywhere, but this is a case of getting what you paid for. A good pruners will have a bypass blade, good construction, and a comfortable grip. Fine Gardening magazine and I join together to recommend the Felco Pruners. With replaceable parts and easy-to-sharpen blades, they are a match for any perennial in the garden. See more at www.felcostore.com



Plant Disorder of the Month

This month we're looking at a **lawn** disorder rather than a plant disorder, as we all struggle to control the awful 'Pricker Weed' as it is commonly known. *Carduus nutans* is the Musk Thistle that sends out so many seeds that it seems impossible to control. Here's what to do. In spring, when it's still a rosette, use RoundUp or better yet, Transline. It kills the plant as an antibiotic kills bacteria, to put it simply. To root the plant out, you must cut 2-4"

"Pricker Weed "
aka Musk Thistle



www.co.stevens.wa.us

below the soil line. When pulling the plants, do it before the flower comes into bloom. If it's already in bloom, bag/burn the flowers so the seeds can't mature. You eventually will gain control of this pest in your lawn.

BULB OF THE MONTH

The beautiful lily on the masthead of the newsletter is the Pixie Lily (*Lilium asiatica*). This petite beauty stands only about sixteen inches tall, blooms in July, and is a knockout in the front of your borders. Pixie lilies come in scarlet, pink, orange, yellow and white. They are a bulb best planted in the fall, 6 inches deep, and want as much sun as they can get. Other than that, they're really unfussy, and reward you, the gardener, with increasing numbers of blooms as the years go by.